



Monson Community Preservation Committee
110 Main Street
Monson, MA 01057

Minutes
September 8, 2020
Remote Meeting

The meeting began at 5:30pm and was held by remote participation through “Zoom” due to COVID-19.

Members Present: Leslie Duthie (Chair), Glenn Colburn, Karen King, Madeline Goodrich, Tamara Cabey

Members Absent: Jeannie Quaglietti

Approval of Minutes

Karen King makes a motion to approve 6-2-2020 meeting minutes and Madeline Goodrich seconds.

Vote was taken by roll call:

Voting Aye: Leslie Duthie, Karen King, Madeline Goodrich

All in favor, motion passes.

American Chestnut Grant Application

Leslie Duthie: Please review the project with us.

Jesse Greene: Previous grant project delayed by winter and Pandemic but was able to finally start work by July after having discussions with the American Chestnut Association. Massachusetts orchardist, Brian Clark recommended to continue with planting with proper watering. BB landscaping cleared almost 1 acre and they did a training on how to plant the chestnut trees, so they were able to plant 80 planting sites and each site they used 2 seeds which is one of the experiments. This is for better germination rate. We have done several watering's with volunteers from the fire department and other various volunteers. Survival rate is about 91% of the tubes have a tree in them and some have doubles. The tallest tree just after 4th of July is about 23 inches tall. BB Landscaping did clear and plant but there were consistent volunteers throughout the summer.

Leslie: What is the \$28,655 for this time?

Valerie Bogacz-Beaudoin: Continue to the 3rd plot, adding an additional acre, in the packet there are pictures of where we are from the second planting. Working our way back up Mount Ella. This spot is less level which is why this price is higher than the previous grant submitted. It will cover the clearing, planting, protecting them and some backup money for watering throughout the summer of next year in case we have lack of volunteers.

Leslie Duthie: Are you documenting your volunteer work hours? And can you submit that to CPC?

Jesse Greene: Yes, can certainly do that.

Leslie Duthie: Have you spent any of the money from the previous grant?

Valerie Bogacz-Beaudoin: We have submitted \$11,044.74. There is another set of bills for additional \$300 but have not sent down to the offices yet. Because of COVID-19, the student conservation core could not come out this year but they will come out next year as long as they get the clearance from the state so that will be an additional \$8400 that will be coming from last years grant as well for next year.

Leslie Duthie: That will still leave you about \$2000 that you are not spending from this grant, is that correct? Now still applying for new money, is STA money included in new grant?

Valerie Bogacz-Beaudoin: I am not including the \$8400 in the new grant, that is from the one we have already received. In the new grant, there is an additional request for \$8200 in the current request because they will be able to come back 2022 to continue the work since they are a year behind due to pandemic.

Leslie Duthie: Remember we have two additional grant rounds next year. I am assuming you will not be spending all of your current grant money until next spring. You are already encumbering about \$10,000. It would be a good idea to remove \$8200 from current grant so you do not have to encumber next year. You could apply in the fall of 2021 to ask for the \$8200 to pay for expenses that occur in spring of 2022. We would like to see you spend the money from the first grant request. \$12,055.26 was encumbered from last years grant request and hold \$8400 for next year. How about apply for the full amount this time but return what was not used in previous year.

Valerie Bogacz-Beaudoin: I would just need to send up the bills for \$300 but we could return the remaining \$10,000 so that way we can still apply for the \$28,655.

Jesse Greene: Agrees that it makes sense to wrap up last years project, return the unused funds so that way it frees up money for someone else to use. We do not need that money right now for that section. We can move forward for the next section.

Leslie Duthie: We can accept bills for last years grant up until December and then return remaining money that was not used. That way you can apply for this year's grant, round it up to \$28,660 for ease of calculation.

Valerie Bogacz-Beaudoin: That works for us.

Jesse Greene: How do I submit the volunteer hours?

Leslie Duthie: You can just submit a page synopsis through e-mail. It is important to see

Karen King: A digital attachment of the trees would be great, is that something we can include?

Jesse Greene: We can certainly provide digital copies of our finished products.

Pickleball Court by Timothy Pascale:

Leslie Duthie: What is the Pickleball?

Timothy Pascale: It is combination of tennis and ping pong, its played on a court that looks very similar to a tennis court but much smaller with a lower net and wooded paddle. Senior citizens have been very interested in this sport; it is played up at the high school as well. Takes up little space, 64x64 area can fit two courts.

Leslie Duthie: Where will these be placed?

Timothy Pascale: We haven't quite decided yet, but we have a couple options.

1. Behind the senior center, in property they purchased.
2. Down beyond the skatepark at veterans' field

Will meet with Evan to finalize location.

Leslie Duthie: What is the process and does this grant include equipment?

Timothy Pascale: Dig down a foot, fill it in with gravel, then paved. Company would install the nets and paint the lines. Then a fence would go all the way around it. The equipment was not included in grant because the parks and rec department could purchase and house these items. Belchertown has two courts at the middle school, and they have waiting lists to play, and they even have a club. Majority players are older which is nice to have variety in activities.

Leslie Duthie: Great, any other questions?

Tamara Cabey: When will there be a decision on location of courts?

Timothy Pascale: I need to discuss with Evan Brassard and Dan Moriarty, so I am hoping to have a decision by your next meeting in October.

Leslie Duthie: Sound like a great project and brings some variety.

Safety Netting by Timothy Pascale

Timothy Pascale: I did not think we would need this netting, but the new neighbors have horses and an electric fencing across the street from lower Rogers Field, so it is now becoming needed for safety. If kids go get balls it poses a risk. The netting would be 10 feet high which is larger compared to the 3 foot one that was there. The netting would wrap around the corners of each side. The other net we previously put up saved a lot of balls and kept kids safe.

Leslie Duthie: \$30,000 for installation of the netting, and tree work at the north end of the field.

Ongoing cemetery projects by David Beaudoin:

Leslie: Please give us an update on outstanding projects.

David Beaudoin:

- Dan Laroche has been taken over by the Cemetery Arch Project and more money was approved at Spring Town Meeting for the structural engineer, so that project is still moving forward. About \$94,000 encumbered for this project.
- Tombstone project: at a stand still because the company did half the job but now unable to get in touch with them to finish project. \$11, 500 encumbered since 2017.
- North Main Street Cemetery, leftover money can be returned because project is finished.

Leslie Duthie: Please provide a letter to close out Tombstone project to return \$11,500 and reapply when ready.

Current Cemetery Project: The Vault by David Beaudoin

David Beaudoin: The bids were all over the place and contractors want different things.

Leslie Duthie: Meet with Dan Laroche and get an updated application with exact information.

Tamara Cabey: I was there during the survey of the vault and I strongly recommend getting a structural engineer involved.

Leslie Duthie: Table this project for now. Focus on the previous projects and work with Dan Laroche on the vault proposal before submitting in the next round.

Hovey Hill Road Parcel by Leslie Duthie

Glenn Colburn: This is a proposed acquisition for creation of a greenway that extends from Reimers Road, specifically the Quinlan Property up through two town properties, including several Norcross properties, Nottinghamshire Farm, recently acquired property on Hovey through the State Hospital to State Avenue.

Leslie Duthie: This is approximately 3 miles from Reimers road to almost the Town of Palmer that people would be able to use and would be a great purchase to create a long greenway. This land has varying topography.



Leslie Duthie: Asking for the sale price of the parcel. Administrative funds could cover the legal fees and appraisals. I also plan to write several other grants along with the CPC grant. Total CPC grant money requested: \$325,000. We are going to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss this project and will give an update at our October meeting.

Karen King makes a motion to continue the hearing on the grants until our October meeting, Tamara Cabey seconds.

Voting Aye: Leslie Duthie, Madeline Goodrich, Glenn Colburn
All in favor, motion passes.

Other:

Membership dues were paid in August.

COVID-19 Wayfinders contract agreements for low/moderate income rental coverage during the pandemic. CPA funding will pay for rent only and possible reimbursement of CPA funds through Federal COVID reimbursement Grants.

Next Meeting: October 6, 2020

Adjourn at 6:55pm

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jamie L. Messer
CPC Clerk